

This, I believe, is what we are coming to, and if everybody succeeded in abolishing by law what he considers the foolish exercise and the freedom of everybody else, we shall then have reached the final stage of efficiency according to the ideas of those who advocate prohibition. To my mind it will be the final stage of inefficiency. When anything that has a demoralizing effect on the individual, or, for that matter, on a few individuals, takes place, and when newspapers refer to any sore, moral, social, or political, we see thousands of amateur specialists clamouring to be given an opportunity to inoculate every one with moral reform, with legislative serum, to cure that for which perhaps only a few are responsible; the rest of the people must be inoculated, whether they individually happen to suffer from the sore, or not.

We must agree that pretence of virtue is the most pernicious of all vices, and, unfortunately, of all vices the most prevalent, and that a great deal of cant and hypocrisy prevail to-day regarding the drinking evil. But surely public opinion is of no force or avail unless we, as individuals, uphold the same, by giving expression to it by our own voluntary actions and by the examples of our own daily life. But, Sir, to join in condemning in public what we, ourselves, do in private, or, for that matter, what we condone privately in others, is, to my mind, to reduce public opinion to a farce.

Nothing is surer than that no law should govern a man's thoughts, or his beliefs, or his desires, or his appetites; but it can only so regulate his exercise of them as to prevent him from thereby interfering with the rights or endangering the safety of his neighbour. Some who advocate prohibition, who are wise and honest enough to recognise these facts, say: "Oh, but wait until we have perfected prohibition and have barred the shipment of liquor into our territory and stopped the importation from abroad." Supposing such a thing were possible, and presumably it is, would such a law placed on our statute-books arrest the development of nature? Would the grape and apple cease to ripen, and the corn and rye and barley refuse to lend themselves to the process of fermentation at the behest of the Canadian Government?

We are all desirous of minimizing the drinking evil, and if we are honest we certainly wish to see the improperly-conducted hotel abolished. But the methods

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of the Prohibitionist are not the remedy for these evils. The only remedy in my estimation is the middle path correction, namely, the sane enforcement of the liquor license law coupled with moral suasion and enlightenment. Some have tendencies to commit crimes, some gamble, some go insane, others spread disease, while others indulge in foolish excesses, and certainly for that reason these men should be placed under restraint; but surely no Government would likewise bring within the law the thousands of other men who are free from the vices and criminal tendencies to which I have just alluded; and when it takes upon itself such an authority, it goes too far, and violates the fundamental rights of constitutional government. Newspapers are the advance agents of progress. The New York American says:

Realize that education and self control mean temperance. Bigotry, intolerance control of a majority by the minority, will cause secret drunkenness, and never true temperance.

The Rev. Wm. A. Wasson, of New York, an American clergyman, states that nothing is more certain than that every state and local community in which prohibition now obtains will ultimately have to return to the policy of regulation, and just so long as the prohibition law remains on the statute books will the day of reformation be deferred.

Which are to-day the races that are in the vanguard of human progress? Surely not the Turk and Mohammedan, whose religion forbids him to use wine, even moderately. The British soldier is considered the best on earth, and this takes in the Canadian, Australian, New Zealanders and others, while the Jack Tar of the British Navy has no peer; and both are allotted a moderate amount of stimulants by law. Yet it is claimed by men who advocate movements of this kind that wine dulls the faculties and has a tendency to numb and impede progress in communities. Are the works of the great sculptors, painters, musicians, philosophers and statesmen in the past, the works of wine bibbers? Have their works been outclassed in recent years? Surely not. Nor can such an argument be used against the wine-drinking countries of the world to-day who are in the vanguard of progress and who are so valiantly upholding our liberties and institutions at the present time.

The personal freedom and liberty we enjoy, for which men have fought and died